

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, April 23, 2007 in Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Lesser called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Lesser  
Treasurer Creary  
Commissioner Jernigan  
Commissioner Rodriguez  
Commissioner Tanberg  
Commissioner ZeBrack

No members of the audience were present.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lesser reported the following:

- April 25<sup>th</sup> is the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Denim Day" in LA, wear denim to support the prevention of physical and sexual abuse.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Conference will be held on May 16 and 17, 2007. Commissioner Freeman and Tanberg will staff the Commission's publication table in the morning and President Lesser will oversee it in the afternoon.
- On May 17, 2007, President Lesser, Vice President Duba and Commissioner Freeman will attend the Antelope Valley Women's Conference in Lancaster, CA.
- The Women at Work Women's Conference is scheduled for October 19, 2008 in Pasadena at the Westin. Staff to place on an upcoming agenda for consideration of support.
- On June 2, 2007, the Black Women's Health Project will host a breakfast at the City Club. Staff to place on a future agenda for consideration of support.
- Invitations to the Health Policy Summit on May 24, 2007 were distributed. Commissioners attending should register early and agendaize registration fee for reimbursement.
- She attended the Distinguished Speaker's Series which featured Tim Russert, Managing Editor and Moderator of NBC's Meet the Press.
- She attended the funeral services of former Fourth District Deputy, Tom Martin.
- Attended Shake Rattle Tsunami presentation in the South Bay and a couple of events commemorating Earth Day.
- Met with the group, Opportunity International, that provides micro-loans to women to create businesses in third world countries.
- Saddened to announce the passing of the Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald, Congresswoman, 37<sup>th</sup> Congressional District on April 22, 2007.
- Shared a picture of the newest addition to the Lesser family, her grandson Deacon James Lesser.

- Announced the upcoming Salute to Aquatic Champion Forum on June 6, 2007 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Staff was instructed to place participation of this event on the next agenda.
- The Legislative Black Caucus Foundation Inc. will hold its Third Annual Conference in Sacramento and Los Angeles on May 1-5, 2007.
- A Respect Me! Press conference will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. at the Los Angeles Sentinel.
- The Sister Study is looking for sisters to participate in a study on breast cancer.

Commissioner Jernigan would like to place on the next Commission Agenda correspondence to CBS commenting on their quick response and action of canceling the Don Imus radio show, after an uproar over his racist and sexist comments about Rutgers women's basketball team. Commissioner Jernigan commented that the situation was most degrading and hurtful to women athletes and women in general. She also commented on the passing of Congresswoman Millender-McDonald and how great her loss will be to the people that she represented in the 37<sup>th</sup> District.

Treasurer Creary will represent the Commission at the Respect Me! Press Conference tomorrow at the Los Angeles Sentinel.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Creary reported that she has been working with staff to review and reconcile the Commission's Trust Fund Accounts. A preliminary balance sheet was issued for review and staff is also working with the County's Fiscal Services Division to prepare a final report. Once the final report is approved by the Finance Committee it will be placed on the agenda for Commission's approval.

The expenditures for March 2007 includes the December 11, 2006 adopted changes to the Trust Fund: The beginning balance as of March was \$15,107.11; expenditures were \$25.00; income was \$636.13; ending balance was \$15,718.24; spending allocation for April 2007 is \$5,239.41 combined with the rollover allocation of March 2007 of \$3751.78. The monthly allowance for April 2007 is \$8,991.19.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Staff reported the following:

- Announced that tomorrow, April 24, 2007, is Equal Pay Day, the point to which a woman must work to achieve **pay** equity.
- On Saturday, April 28, 2007 in Griffith Park is the March of Dimes WalkAmerica, Saving Babies Together.

Sandra Barbee, Chief, Commission Services reported that Commission's Sunset Review is currently being reviewed by the Auditor Controller. Once the review is



complete, it will be placed on the Audit Committee's agenda for approval, before going to the Board of Supervisors agenda for final approval.

### **REVIEW OF COMMISSION'S GOALS**

#### **Goal # 1 – Empower, influence and help women to forge ahead in acquiring better access to healthcare.**

Commissioner Tanberg, Chair of the Health Committee, reported that the Committee has been closely following the implementation of the County's MetroCare Plan to ensure that women utilizing the Martin Luther King, Jr. –Harbor Hospital continue to receive access to healthcare.

The Commission also discussed participating with the Association of California Commission's for Women's Osteoporosis prevention campaign and training. Participation will allow access to the educational CD to be downloaded to the Commission's Website. The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and vaccine is another issue that the Committee is exploring.

President Lesser reported that the Health Policy Summit's listening panel will include the Board of Supervisors. Commissioners Creary and Rodriguez will participate as facilitators, as well as, two physicians from Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center who will facilitate the sessions on disability.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the *Cut It Out* Project is slowly taken shape. The Los Angeles City and Glendale Commissions for Women are recruiting as well. Also, there is still public interest in the Domestic Violence Screening Cards.

#### **Goal #2 – Empower, influence and forge ahead by enhancing our economic position.**

Treasurer Creary reported that the Commission's Awards Luncheon raised nearly \$40,000 and she is working with staff on the maintenance of the Trust Fund. Commissioner Davalos' Gender Equity Committee is researching the issue of pay equity to compile a report.

President Lesser reported that the 5K planning and outreach for 2007 has significantly increased. Commissioner Rodriguez recommended that the Commission support 25 students to attend the race again this year. President Lesser recommended that the scholarship reception remain the second Tuesday in May.

#### **Goal #3 – Empower, influence and support women to forge ahead to reach gender equity in the workplace.**

President Lesser reported that Commissioner Davalos has been collaborating with organizations who advocate and support equity of pay for women. She is also looking

into equal pay as it relates to Los Angeles County employees. Treasurer Creary recommended that equal pay is highlighted in our upcoming Status Report.

### **REPORT ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON**

In the absence of Commissioner Freeman, staff member Twila Kerr presented the report. The preliminary net proceeds from the luncheon were \$31,985.71 with an outstanding balance of \$7,800.00. The recommendations for 2008 are as follows:

- Form Awards Luncheon Committee the second meeting in July.
- Continue the Honoree Journal Supporter Ads.
- On Corporate Sponsor Form to remove the \$750 Associate (business card) ad.
- Invite Rodri Rodriguez to be Mistress of Ceremonies for 2008
- Add the Reception time on the invitation.
- Envelopes to identify calling for nominations.
- Luncheon color and related materials to remain the color purple.
- Increase the font size on nametags.
- Commission materials table be placed in a more prominent location.
- Better VIP List to reflect all elected officials.
- Add the black backdrop to the stage again next year.

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones joined the meeting at 11:30 a.m., constituting a quorum)

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2007**

On motion of Treasurer Creary, seconded by Commissioner Tanberg, and unanimously carried, the minutes of April 9, 2007 were approved.

### **APPROVE THE NAME CHANGE OF THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK AND HEALTH EXPO FOR GIRLS AT-RISK TO THE L.A. COUNTY RUN FOR HEALTH, 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK & WELLNESS EXPO**

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Treasurer Creary, with Commissioner Rodriguez opposing and motion carries, the Commission agreed to table the name change of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk and Health Expo for two weeks.

(Commissioner ZeBrack left the meeting at 11:45 a.m., quorum lost)

### **APPROVE REGISTRATION, HOTEL, MEALS AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES UP TO \$1300 TO SEND A COMMISSION DELEGATE TO THE 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NACW CONVENTION IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY FROM JULY 11-14, 2007**

Due to the lack of a quorum this item was continued for two weeks.



**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL TO CREATE A ONE TIME ONLY 2007 LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FOR 5 RECIPIENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 EACH**

Due to the lack of a quorum this item was continued for two weeks.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Legislative Committee:** Commissioner Jernigan reported on the latest decision passed to support the ban on abortion by the Supreme Court on April 18, 2007. Commissioner Jernigan reported that this ruling is slowly chipping away at Rowe vs. Wade and there is no allowance for incest, a deformed fetus, and/or rape.

**Education Committee:** Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that the Education Committee will meet today to develop criteria for the 2007 LACCW Nursing Scholarship. There is an existing nursing scholarship given by Supervisor Antonovich and the Committee must be careful not to duplicate it. She recommended that the Committee research the nursing scholarship process further and review an assessment test that is used by Los Angeles Unified School District, which will possibly benefit the girls in selecting a career.

Nyla Jefferson, Staff, briefly informed the Commission that an invitation letter has been sent to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair of the Board to participate as Honorary Chair of the 5K. Once the name change for the race is approved, Sachi A. Hamai Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors will assist staff in approaching County Department Heads for their support.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was none given.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Creary attended health meetings with the ANMA/NMA in Arlington, VA on April 13-15, 2007 where she participated in a HPV discussion with National Specialists. She also attended the St. John of God's Annual fundraiser for Residential Alzheimer Housing at the LA Country Club on April 19, 2007.

Commissioner Tanberg attended a reception for new appointees given by Governor Schwarzenegger where his deputies spoke on Health Care Reform and the Environmental Plan. Commissioner Becerra-Jones attended a lecture given by Former President, William Clinton who spoke on the problem of obesity and other health related issues. Commissioner Rodriguez read a thank you letter from Judy Gordon, Executive Director, Women in Children Crisis Shelter for the Commission's \$1,500 donation.

**MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda):**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> the Commissioner's Leadership Conference will be held at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. Commissioner Becerra-Jones inquired whether the Commission will host any International delegations in the future. President Lesser asked staff to contact the Office of Protocol and the international Visitors Council to express the Commissions interest in hosting visitors in the near future.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. in memory of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald and the 32 victims of the Virginia Tech shooting.

**ATTENDANCE**

**COMMISSIONERS**

Charlotte Lesser, President  
Ruth Creary, Ph.D., Treasurer  
Yolanda Becerra-Jones  
Ruth Jernigan  
Olivia Rodriguez  
Bobbi Jean Tanberg  
Elise ZeBrack

**EXCUSED**

Reiko Duba, Vice President  
Karin Davalos  
Peggy J. Freeman  
Wadie Gravely  
Janet Mummey, Esq

**UNEXCUSED**

Michele Pinedo

**COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Sandra Barbee, Rhonda Rangel, Nyla Jefferson, and Twila Kerr Executive Office